

Chronic Disease Indicators: Indicator Definition



Cancer of the oral cavity and pharynx, mortality

Category:	Cancer
Demographic Group:	All resident persons.
Numerator:	Deaths with International Classification of Diseases (ICD)-10 codes C00–C14 (ICD-9 codes 140–149) as the underlying cause of death among residents during a calendar year.
Denominator:	Midyear resident population for the same calendar year.
Measures of Frequency:	Annual number of deaths. Annual mortality rate — crude and age-adjusted (standardized by the direct method to the year 2000 standard U.S. population based on single years of age from the Census P25-1130 series estimates*) — with 95% confidence interval.
Time Period of Case Definition:	Calendar year.
Background:	During 2001, cancer of the oral cavity and pharynx caused approximately 7,800 deaths, and 30,100 new cases are diagnosed annually. The 5-year survival rate is approximately 50%, among the lowest of most common cancers.
Significance :	Cancer of the oral cavity and pharynx is associated with use of tobacco products and excessive alcohol use. Together, tobacco and alcohol use account for approximately 75% of all oral cancers in the United States.
Limitations of Indicator:	Because cancer of the oral cavity and pharynx can have a long latency period, years might pass before changes in behavior or clinical practice affect population mortality.
Data Resources:	Death certificate data from vital statistics agencies (numerator) and population estimates from the U.S. Bureau of the Census or suitable alternative (denominator). http://statecancerprofiles.cancer.gov/
Limitations of Data Resources:	Causes of death and other variables listed on the death certificate might be inaccurate.
Healthy People 2010 Objectives:	3-6: Reduce the oropharyngeal cancer death rate.

SEER - Standard Populations (Millions) for Age-Adjustment <http://seer.cancer.gov/stdpopulations/>